

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Competency-based education differs in style from traditional educational delivery models. In providing proper assessment of work completed in this new manner of delivery, traditional Carnegie units of measurement do not properly cover student work that is based on mastery of subject instead of hours of seat time in a class. The proposed amendments allow for proper assessment and delivery of instruction from a competency-based classroom structure versus the traditional mode of instruction which existing rule 281—12.5(256) was intended to address. These amendments cover delivery of instruction and assessment in both educational delivery systems and also define “competency-based education.”

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendment on or before September 10, 2013, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendment should be directed to Mike Cormack, Rules Coordinator, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-3399; e-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on September 10, 2013, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any person who intends to attend the public hearing and has special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility requirements, should advise the Department of Education of specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 256.7(26)“a”(2).

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Adopt the following new definition of “Competency-based education” in rule **281—12.2(256)**:

“*Competency-based education*” means that learners advance through content or earn credit based on demonstration of proficiency of competencies. Proficiency for this context is the demonstrated skill or knowledge required to advance to and be successful in higher levels of learning in that content area. Some students may advance through more content or earn more credit than in a traditional school year while others might take more than a traditional school year to advance through the same content and to earn credit. A student must meet the requirements of 12.5(14) to be awarded credit in a competency-based system of education.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 12.5(14) as follows:

12.5(14) Unit. A unit is a course which meets one of the following criteria: it is taught for at least 200 minutes per week for 36 weeks; it is taught for the equivalent of 120 hours of instruction; it requires the demonstration of proficiency of formal competencies associated with the course according to the State Guidelines for Competency-Based Education or its successor organization; or it is an equated requirement as a part of an innovative program filed as prescribed in rule 281—12.9(256). A fractional unit shall be calculated in a manner consistent with this subrule. ~~Multiple~~ Unless the method of instruction is competency-based, multiple-section courses taught at the same time in a single classroom

situation by one teacher do not meet this unit definition for the assignment of a unit of credit. However, the third and fourth years of a foreign language may be taught at the same time by one teacher in a single classroom situation each yielding a unit of credit.